

California's Enigma...The Salton Sea

A rampaging Colorado River inundated the Salton sink in 1905, forming the Salton Sea, California's largest inland lake. The sea provides vital wildlife habitat that will be lost if the sea gets saltier. The recently concluded Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and related state legislation brought the sea's plight to wider public attention and offer hope that a solution can be found to restore the Salton Sea habitat.

- What options are being looked at to restore the Salton Sea?
- How will restoration activities be funded?
- Who is supporting Salton Sea restoration and why?
- What is the Salton Sea's role in California's environment?
- What technical and other obstacles could impede Salton Sea restoration?

Join the Water Education Foundation and the California Department of Water Resources for a one-day conference focusing on restoration challenges and opportunities at the Salton Sea.

Preliminary Program

9:00 am

Welcome

Rita Schmidt-Sudman,
Executive Director,
Water Education Foundation

*Michael Chrisman
Secretary of Resources

Overview: Birds of the Salton Sea

Experience the stunning variety of avian life with a guided look at some of the more than 400 bird species that inhabit or visit the Salton Sea.

What Do We Mean When We Say Restoration?

Restoring the Salton Sea means different things to different people. Over the years, proposals have been advanced to desalt the sea's water, pipe its salty water to the ocean, and shrink its size. This panel, moderated by Jeanine Jones of the Department of Water Resources, will explore the similarities and differences in restoration visions advanced by local government agencies, tribal communities, and environmental groups.

Lunch

Why the Salton Sea is Important
Fred Keeley, Director,
Planning and Conservation League

Panel:

Status of Salton Sea Fish and Wildlife Resources

With the sea growing ever saltier, how are its present fish and wildlife resources faring? Tom Kirk, executive director of the Salton Sea Authority, will lead a discussion of experts from wildlife agencies on the status of the present resources.

Legislative Perspective on Mobilizing Support for Restoration

Senator Denise Ducheny-Moreno,*
D-San Diego

A leading state legislator talks about how the Salton Sea became a legislative priority and how support can be mobilized for restoration.

State Funding for Restoration

Assemblymember Joe Caramilla, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
What is a reasonable price tag for restoration and where will the money come from?

Federal Funding for Restoration

Rep. Mary Bono* (R-Calif)
With the federal government now committed to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), what role will it play in Salton Sea restoration?

4:00 pm

Wrap-up

Rita Schmidt-Sudman,
Executive Director,
Water Education Foundation

*Invited

REGISTRATION

Salton Sea Conference
January 21, 2004

Sponsored by the
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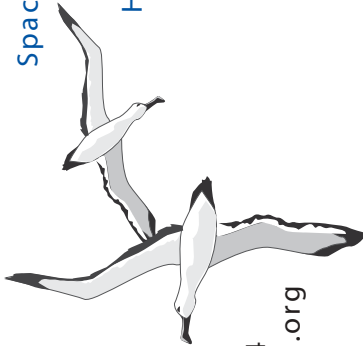
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for
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